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Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 6 July 2018

38/17. The Social Forum

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling all previous resolutions and decisions adopted on the Social Forum by the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007,

Reaffirming the unique nature within the United Nations of the Social Forum, which makes possible a dialogue and an exchange between the representatives of Member States and civil society, including grass-roots organizations and intergovernmental organizations, and stressing that the current reform of the United Nations should take into account the contribution of the Forum as a vital space for open and fruitful dialogue on issues linked with the national and international environment needed for the promotion of the enjoyment of all human rights by all,

1. *Reaffirms* the Social Forum as a unique space for interactive dialogue between the United Nations human rights machinery and various stakeholders, including the contribution of civil society and grass-roots organizations, and stresses the need to ensure greater participation of grass-roots organizations and of those living in poverty, particularly women, especially from developing countries, in the sessions of the Forum;

2. *Underlines* the importance of coordinated efforts at the national, regional and international levels for the promotion of social cohesion based on the principles of social justice, equity and solidarity and of addressing the social dimension and challenges of the ongoing globalization process and the negative impact of the current economic and financial crises;

3. *Stresses* the need for the increased and sustained participation and contribution of civil society and all other relevant actors listed in the present resolution to the promotion and effective realization of the right to development;

4. *Decides* that the Social Forum will meet for two working days in 2019, in Geneva, on dates suitable for the participation of representatives of States Members of the United Nations and of the broadest possible range of other stakeholders, especially from developing countries, and also decides that, at its next meeting, the Forum should focus on the promotion and protection of the rights of children and youth through education;

5. *Requests* the President of the Human Rights Council to appoint, as early as possible, from candidates nominated by regional groups, the Chair-Rapporteur for the 2019 Social Forum, bearing in mind the principle of regional rotation;

6. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to make available the most recent and relevant United Nations reports and documents on the promotion and protection of the rights of children and youth through education as background documents for the dialogues and debates that will be held at the 2019 Social Forum;

7. *Requests* the High Commissioner to facilitate participation in the 2019 Social Forum, in order to contribute to the interactive dialogues and debates held at the Forum and to assist the Chair-Rapporteur as resource persons, of no fewer than 10 experts, including representatives of civil society and grass-roots organizations in developing countries, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child;

8. *Decides* that the Social Forum will remain open to the participation of representatives of States Members of the United Nations and all other interested stakeholders, such as intergovernmental organizations, different components of the United Nations system, especially mandate holders of thematic procedures and mechanisms of the human rights machinery, regional economic commissions and specialized agencies and organizations, and representatives designated by national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and will also be open to other non-governmental organizations whose aims and purposes are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including newly emerging actors, such as small groups and rural and urban associations from the North and the South, anti-poverty groups, peasants' and farmers' organizations and their national and international associations, voluntary organizations, environmental organizations and activists, youth associations, community organizations, trade unions and associations of workers, and representatives of the private sector, on the basis of arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights, through an open and transparent accreditation procedure, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council, while ensuring the most effective contribution of these entities;

9. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to seek effective means of ensuring consultation and the broadest possible participation of representatives from every region, in particular, representatives of persons with disabilities, especially those from developing countries, in the Social Forum, including by establishing partnerships with non-governmental organizations, the private sector and international organizations;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to disseminate information about the Social Forum, to invite relevant individuals and organizations to the Forum, and to take all practical measures required for the success of this initiative;

11. *Invites* the 2019 Social Forum to submit a report containing its conclusions and recommendations to the Human Rights Council at its forty-first session;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Social Forum with all the services and facilities necessary to fulfil its activities, and requests the High Commissioner to provide all the support necessary to facilitate the convening and proceedings of the Forum;

13. *Encourages* all Member States to participate in the discussions of the Social Forum so that worldwide representation in the debates can be ensured;

14. *Decides* to continue consideration of this issue at its forty-first session under the same agenda item.

39th meeting
6 July 2018

[Adopted without a vote.]